

Minutes
Town of Lake Park, Florida
Town Commission Meeting
June 4, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.
Town Commission Chambers, 535 Park Avenue

The Town Commission met for the purpose of a Regular Town Commission Meeting on Wednesday, June 4, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Paul Castro, Vice-Mayor G. Chuck Balias, Commissioners Longtin, Otterson and Garretson, Interim Town Manager Hoa Hoang, Town Attorney Thomas Baird and Town Clerk Carol Simpkins.

Mayor Castro called the Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and gave the Invocation.
Commissioner Paul Garretson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Town Clerk Carol Simpkins performed the Roll Call.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Mayor Paul Castro requested to have the contract for J. Douglas Drymon, placed on the Agenda before Presentations. Commissioner Jeanine Longtin requested that the Watertower Road Assessment be place on the agenda under discussion.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Mayor Chuck Balias to approve Agenda as amended; Commissioner Bill Otterson made a second.

Vote on Motion:

Commission Member	Yes	No	Other
Commissioner Garretson	X		
Commissioner Otterson	X		
Commissioner Longtin	X		
Vice-Mayor Balias	X		
Mayor Castro	X		

Motion passed 5-0

Town Manager's Contract

Mayor Castro stated that the contract that the Commission presented to Doug Drymon has been accepted and he will start as new Town Manager on July 1, 2003.

Commissioner Jeanine Longtin said that she feels that the Commission should continue with the search. The current contract needs to have the red corrections redone.

PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following person address the Commission: Richard Ahrens, 1461 Kinetic Road, He gave an update on the Park Avenue and 10th Street project.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. *Commission Meeting minutes from May 21, 2003.*

MOTION: A motion to approve Agenda Item Commission Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2003 was made by Commissioner Jeanine Longtin and seconded by Vice Mayor Chuck Balius.

Vote on Motion:

Commission Member	Yes	No	Other
Commissioner Garretson	X		
Commissioner Otterson	X		
Commissioner Longtin	X		
Vice-Mayor Balius	X		
Mayor Castro	X		

Motion passed 5-0

2. *The Northlake Task Force Members appointment was tabled.*

PUBLIC HEARING/S:

ORDINANCES ON FIRST AND/OR SECOND READING/FINAL ADOPTION

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

RESOLUTIONS

None

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

3. *Crosswalk color and patter choices on Federal Highway*

The Commission requested that staff confirm what colors North Palm Beach is using and what the intersection will look like (what type of architecture).

Motion: Vice Mayor Chuck Balias made a motion for the following colors:
Color Choice: 1st Choice – Coral
2nd Choice - Misty Mauve
3rd Choice – Terra Cotta
Seconded by Commissioner Paul Garretson.

Vote on Motion:

Commissioner Member	Yes	No	Other
Commissioner Garretson	X		
Commissioner Otterson	X		
Commissioner Longtin	X		
Vice-Mayor Balias	X		
Mayor Castro	X		

Motion Carried 5/0.

4. *Economic Development Administration for the Lake Park Community Redevelopment Agency.*

Motion: Commissioner Bill Otterson made a motion to proceed with the Economic Development Grant application. Seconded by Vice Mayor Chuck Balias.

Vote on Motion:

Commissioner Member	Yes	No	Other
Commissioner Garretson	X		
Commissioner Otterson	X		
Commissioner Longtin	X		

Vice-Mayor Balius	X		
Mayor Castro	X		

Motion Carried 5/0.

5. Town Attorney Contract

Mayor Castro stated that he was fine with the hourly increases that Mr. Baird proposed. He explained that the cost of the attorney fees on the larger town projects could be passed on the applicant. He also feels that the cost of the educational seminars should be shared by the other cities that he serves.

Town Attorney, Thomas J. Baird, Esq. explained that the increased rates are the standard rates that he charges and are lower than his private rates. He does not bill the elected officials for phone calls because he feels that they should not be rushed when they call for advice. With 58% of the fiscal year completed he only used 32% of the legal funds budgeted. With 67% of the fiscal year completed he has only spent 45% of the legal funds budgeted. He attributed that to the economy of scale. The Town benefits from his experience because he does not have to invent forms over and over again and has municipal experience.

Vice Mayor Chuck Balius stated that the price increase was fine with him.

Commissioner Jeanine Longtin stated that she is not happy with the service that the attorney is providing. She does not like the attitude that she gets when she contacts his office and the caliber of his work is embarrassing. She thinks that the contract should be reviewed every year, calls from the Manager should not be billed and the Town should not pay for the Attorney's continuing education courses.

Commissioner Paul Garretson said that he gets a good response from the Attorney but feels that the communication with staff should be improved.

Commissioner Bill Otterson agrees with the raise.

Mayor Castro has no problem with communications with the Attorney. The Town Manager should let the Commission know if the staff is having problems with the Attorney. Mayor Castro stated the Mr. Baird is the best Land Use attorney in the county.

Vice Mayor Chuck Balius stated that he would like to see that a letter be sent out giving sixty days notice before the attorney's contract is up for renewal. Town Attorney, Thomas J. Baird, Esq. stated that he would send out the letter in the future.

Town Attorney, Thomas J. Baird, Esq. stated that he will not bill for communication from the Commission whether or not if is by phone, email or by memo.

Motion: Commissioner Jeanine Longtin made a motion to go out for a RFP for a Town Attorney. Motion dies for the lack of a second.

Motion: Commissioner Bill Otterson made a motion to accept the Attorney's contract with the amendments the there will be no charge for communication with the Town Commission, Manager or Department Heads, and the Town will only pay for one educational seminar. Seconded by Vice Mayor Chuck Balius.

Vote on Motion:

Commissioner Member	Yes	No	Other
Commissioner Garretson	X		
Commissioner Otterson	X		
Commissioner Longtin		X	
Vice-Mayor Balius	X		
Mayor Castro	X		

Motion Carried 4/1.

6. *Oktoberfest Committee's request for funding*

Helga Wata and Jeff Baumer requested that the Town provide insurance coverage for the Oktoberfest and make a donation of \$2,000 to help cover cost. They stated that the Town covered the insurance on the event last year.

Commissioner Jeanine Longtin requested to see a copy of the letter stating that the Town was covering the event with insurance.

Mayor Castro explained that the Town has been advised by its insurance carrier that they are not able to insure the function because of the alcoholic beverages being sold.

Commissioner Paul Garretson asked if the venders for the function are certified and licensed.

Vice Mayor Chuck Balius explained that if the Town covers the event then it would set precedence for all of the other groups to request that the Town covers the costs of their events.

Commissioner Bill Otterson does not believe that the Town should sponsor events that serve alcoholic beverages.

Commissioner Jeanine Longtin explained that she would agree to underwrite the Oktoberfest for 2003 but that it would be the last time that she would vote to sponsor a non Town function.

Motion: Commissioner Jeanine Longtin made a motion to underwrite the Oktoberfest for 2003. Motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Paul Garretson suggested that the Oktoberfest be held on Park Avenue so that the merchants would benefit.

Town Attorney, Thomas J. Baird, Esq. explained that at Town sponsored events there is a Solvent Immunity Cap that can not be exceeded if the Town is sued. At non Town sponsored events that the Town participates in, there is no cap and the liability is increased.

Commissioner Paul Garretson stated that he feels that the Town should look at it during the budget workshops.

Motion: Commissioner Paul Garretson made a motion to revisit the sponsorship of the Oktoberfest at the Budget Workshop.

Richard Ahrens stated that he would donate \$1,000 to the Town so that the Town could sponsor the Oktoberfest and have it on Park Avenue.

The consensus of the Commission is that if the event is to be held that it be held on Park Avenue.

Mayor Castro requested that Mr. Baumer furnish a synopsis of the Oktoberfest to the Commission before the July meeting (how, when, where, vendors, band). Dale Dougherty, Parks and Recreation Director, will be at the next meeting to furnish more information.

Captain Joe Berkery explained that if a profit is made then the group having the function needs to pay for the police coverage that is required.

Mayor Castro explained that the Commission is not saying that they are going to sponsor the event; they are not saying that they are going to insure the event. What they are saying is that they need more information, they need to speak to Dale Dougherty and they need the new Town Manager on board to talk to him about it. If it is going to be a Town sponsored event then the Parks and Recreation Department and the Town Staff need to be involved.

7. July meeting dates

The Commission set July 23rd at 7:30 PM as a Budget Workshop.

8. *WaterTower Road Assessment Issue*

The Commission requested that any surplus funds from the WaterTower Road Assessment be verified. The usages of the funds are to be confirmed in writing. The purpose of the assessment needs to be explained and the completion of the work needs to be confirmed.

Robert Green, 862 13th Street, asked for the history on the funds and project.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSION, TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY

Mayor Paul Castro

Looks like Park Avenue BBQ is moving along. Requested information on when Lowes will be pouring their foundation. He stated that the lighting plan and signage is something that needs to be talked about when Mr. Drymon starts and a priority workshop will need to be scheduled.

Vice Mayor G. Chuck Balius

There are complaints about the crosswalk at Park and 6th Street. Public Works and the Police Department should look into it. Something should be done about the parking in Lakeshore Park; something should be put up to stop the cars from driving in. A letter needs to be written from the Town to move the bus stop one block north from its location on US 1 and Park Avenue. The Commission gave consensus to write the letter. There will be two events on June 14, a flag ceremony and a dedication of the Commission Chamber.

Commissioner Bill Otterson

There is a new traffic light on Silver Palm and Congress. The door on the west side of the library needs painting again. It should be painted white.

Commissioner Jeanine Longtin

Commissioner Jeanine Longtin questioned why the bill to the Florida League of Cities was so much this year. She sent kudos to Annette Kersey, Director of Human Resources, for the job she did in providing the back up material for the union contract. It is an example of excellence. There is a problem with children crossing the street at Congress and Northlake with no crosswalk or guard. She provided her contact number (561-881-3309). The Library needs volunteers and blood bank needs donations. Thanked the residents and citizens that attended and /or watched the meeting.

Commissioner Paul Garretson

Asked what was going on with the ball fields. Hoa Hoang explained that Dale Dougherty is working on the clay at this time to remove the weed and clay. He thanked Hoa Hoang for doing a good job.

Interim Town Manager Hoa Hoang

He would like to transfer one work crew to the Parks and Recreation Department to work on maintenance for next year.

The New Commission Chamber dedication will be on June 14, 2003 at 11:30 AM.

The Commission may need to call an executive session to review the Union Contract. Target will be coming into Lake Park.

See Exhibit "A" for Town Manager's Comments

Town Attorney Thomas J. Baird

Stated that he received the manager's contract from Mr. Drymon signed with the red ink on it. Commissioner Jeanine Longtin stated that she had put the red corrections on the contract.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, after a motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Balias, seconded by Commissioner Bill Otterson, by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Paul Castro

Mayor Paul Castro

Carol Simpkins

Town Clerk, Carol Simpkins

Approved on this 18th day of June, 2003.